WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for performing communication with a data storage device via a network, comprising:

means for designating a section of a stream of data stored in the data storage device, the section being to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus; and

means for acquiring partial data, which includes a stream belonging to the designated section, from the data storage device via the network.

2. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the designating means includes means for designating a start point and an end point of a stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus, which is included in the stream of the data stored in the data storage device.

3. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data stored in the data storage device includes motion video data, and

the information processing apparatus further comprises means for displaying, as a preview image, an image at a given position on a stream of the motion video data on a display screen of the information processing apparatus.

4. The information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the means for displaying the

preview image includes means for acquiring, when a position on the stream of the motion video data to be displayed as the preview image is designated, data within the motion video data corresponding to the designated position from the data storage device via the network.

5. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for storing the acquired partial data as a file.

6. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the stream of the data stored in the data storage device is stored in the data storage device as a file, and

the means for acquiring the partial data includes:

means for opening the file stored in the data storage device, and

means for reading out, from the opened file via the network, the partial data including the stream belonging to the section designated by the designating means.

7. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data stored in the data storage device includes broadcast program data.

8. The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the data stored in the data storage device includes motion video data,

the designating means includes means for

designating a first time and a second time corresponding to the start point and the end point of a time range, to which the stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus belongs, the time range being within a total time length of the motion video data, and

the means for acquiring the partial data includes:

means for converting the designated first time to a first address indicative of an offset value from a beginning position of the motion video data,

means for converting the designated second time to a second address indicative of an offset value from the beginning position of the motion video data, and

means for acquiring, based on the first address and the second address, the partial data belonging to the time range within the stream of the motion video data from the data storage device via the network.

9. An information processing apparatus for performing communication with a data storage device via a network, comprising:

means for displaying, as a preview image, an image at a given position on a stream of motion video data stored in the data storage device on a display screen of the information processing apparatus;

means for designating a start point and an end point of a stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus, which is included in the stream

of the motion video data; and

means for acquiring partial data including a stream, which is included in the stream of the motion video data and belongs to a range between the start point and the end position designated by the designating means, from the data storage device via the network.

10. The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising means for storing the acquired partial data as a file.

11. The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the designating means includes means for designating a first time and a second time corresponding to the start point and the end point of a time range, to which the stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus belongs, the time range being within a total time length of the motion video data, and

the means for acquiring the partial data includes:

means for converting the designated first time to a first address indicative of an offset value from a beginning position of the motion video data,

means for converting the designated second time to a second address indicative of an offset value from the beginning position of the motion video data, and

means for acquiring, based on the first address and the second address, the partial data belonging to

the time range within the stream of the motion video data from the data storage device via the network.

12. A data transfer method of transferring data stored in a server to an information processing apparatus via a network, comprising:

designating a section of a stream of data stored in the server, the section being to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus; and

transferring partial data, which includes a stream belonging to the designated section within the stream of the data, from the server to the information processing apparatus.

13. The data transfer method according to claim 12, wherein the designating includes designating a start point and an end point of a stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus, which is included in the stream of the data.

14. The data transfer method according to claim 12, wherein the data stored in the server includes motion video data, and

the method further comprises displaying, as a preview image, an image at a given position on a stream of the motion video data on a display screen of the information processing apparatus.

15. The data transfer method according to claim 14, wherein the displaying of the preview image includes acquiring, when a position on the stream of

the motion video data to be displayed as the preview image is designated, data within the motion video data corresponding to the designated position from the server via the network.

16. The data transfer method according to claim 12, further comprising storing as a file the partial data that is transferred from the server to the information processing apparatus.

17. The data transfer method according to claim 12, wherein the stream of the data stored in the server is stored in the server as a file, and

said transferring includes:

opening the file stored in the server, and

reading out, from the opened file via the network, the partial data including the stream belonging to the section designated by said designating.

18. The data transfer method according to claim 12, wherein the data stored in the server includes broadcast program data.

19. The data transfer method according to claim 12, wherein the data stored in the server includes motion video data,

said designating includes designating a first time and a second time corresponding to the start point and the end point of a time range, to which the stream to be downloaded into the information processing apparatus belongs, the time range being within a total time

length of the motion video data, and

said transferring includes:

converting the designated first time to a first address indicative of an offset value from a beginning position of the motion video data,

converting the designated second time to a second address indicative of an offset value from the beginning position of the motion video data, and

transferring, based on the first address and the second address, the partial data including a stream belonging to the time range within the stream of the motion video data from the server to the information processing apparatus via the network.